

REMARKS

Counsel for applicants wishes to thank the examiner for the courtesy of the telephonic interview on September 20, 2004. The substance of the interview is stated herein.

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the examiner has initialed all listed items.

Claims 1 – 18 are pending. Claims 1 – 9, 12, and 14 – 15 have been amended, and new claims 17 and 18 have been added. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank the examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 3, 5 – 12 and 14 – 16 if rewritten in independent form, as well as the allowability of claim 4 if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 3, 5 – 9, 12, and 14 – 15 have been re-written in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that these claims, as amended, and claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. In view of the above, applicants submit that claims 3 – 12 and 14 - 16 are patentable.

Applicants wish to clarify for the record, if necessary, that the claims have been rewritten to expedite prosecution. Moreover, applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter.

Claims 2 – 3, 5, 7, 9 and 12 were objected to for informalities identified in the office action. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Accordingly, these claims have been amended to remedy the instances identified in the office action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 2 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,742,413, Schwital et al. (“Schwital”), and under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP10-146008, Niki et al. (“Niki”). The rejection, insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed for reasons including the following, which are provided by way of example.

As described in the application, the invention is directed to solving the problem, for example, of motors, in which the connector house is integrally molded, in order to provide various motors connection with an external connector of various shapes, different gear housings need to be manufactured. (E.g., specification p. 2, lines 9 - 18.)

According to the claims, e.g., claim 1, the invention is directed to an electric motor. There is a motor main body that is rotated upon energization of the motor main body. Also provided is a speed reducing unit that includes a speed reducing mechanism that reduces rotational speed of the motor main body; and a gear housing that receives the speed reducing mechanism. A control circuit board is held in the gear housing and has at least one electric circuit component. A connector housing is detachably connected to the gear housing and is connectable with an external connector. The connector housing is formed separately from the gear housing and includes a plurality of connection terminals that are secured to the connector housing. The connection terminals of the connector housing are detachably connected with the at least one electric circuit component of the control circuit board and are connectable with corresponding terminals of the external connector. (E.g., claim 1; see also new claim 17.) Thereby, for example, various motors can be configured to connect with external connectors of

different shape or different insertion direction, can be obtained while using the same control circuit board and same gear housing as universal components, by changing the connector housing. (See, e.g., specification p. 13, lines 12 – 18.)

Without conceding that Schwital and Niki discloses any feature of the present invention, Schwital is directed to a drive device for a sunroof of a motor vehicle. Schwital discloses that the connection terminals of the connector housing (40/42/52) are connected with the at least one electric circuit component of the control board. Niki is directed to a small-sized motor. According to Niki, the connector housing (10) is “fused” or permanently welded to the gear housing (3). (Abstract.) According to applicants, Niki discloses that the housing can be fused by applying vibrational energy (e.g., ultrasonic vibration) therebetween, to achieve a watertight connection between the connector housing (10) and the gear housing (3).

The office action asserts that Schwital and Niki each disclose the invention as claimed. To the contrary, Schwital and/or Niki fail to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole. Schwital and/or Niki fail to teach or suggest, for example, “a connector housing that is detachably connected to the gear housing.” (See, e.g., claim 1.) To the contrary, Schwital provides that the connection terminals of the connector housing are not detachably connected. Moreover, Niki teaches that the connector housing (10) is “fused” to the gear housing (3).

Schwital and/or Niki fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claim 1 is patentable over Schwital and Niki.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claim 1, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. In addition, Schwital and Niki clearly fails to show other claimed features as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

New claims 17 – 18 have been added to further define the invention, and are believed to be patentable for reasons including these set out above.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 17 is patentable over the references of record. Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a connector housing that is connected to the gear housing without welding of the connector housing to the gear housing, and that the connection terminals of the connector housing are formed separately from the connection terminals of the control circuit board. Niki teaches that the connector housing (10) is fused to the gear housing (3); Niki fails to teach or suggest an alternative way of connecting the connector housing. Schwital fails to teach or suggest that the connection terminals of the connector housing are detachably connected to the connection terminals of the circuit board. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 17 is patentable over the references of record.

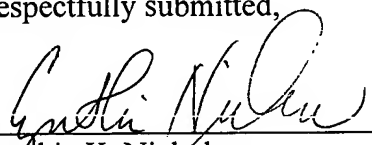
Applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicants do not concede that the cited prior art shown any of the elements recited in the claims. However, applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

Applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, applicants have provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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